

# NASA Langley Community Support Team

"Promoting Aeronautical  
Research in the National Interest"

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May 25, 2000

Mr. Daniel M. Stuck  
County Administrator  
County of York  
P. O. Box 532  
Yorktown, VA 23690

RE: Request for funding to support the NASA Aeronautics Support Team.

Dear Mr. Stuck:

The NASA Langley Community Support Team (NASA/LCST) wishes to express its thanks for the funding that was provided by the County of York in support of the work of the NASA/LCST's fight to save NASA Langley during FY-2000. Due to the need to focus on aeronautical research funding, the Team has been renamed to gain more focus on its main issue in the eyes of Congress. The Team is now referred to as the NASA Aeronautics Support Team (NAST). The Team's primary focus remains on jobs at NASA Langley, however it is recognize that to sell the issue in Congress it is necessary to be less parochial in name.

The NASA Aeronautics Support Team (NAST) is functionally organized to operate on three primary levels under the guidance and direction of the Chairman of the Team and the Director of the Executive Committee / Working Group. These levels are as follows:

**NASA Aeronautics Support Team:** This group consists of full representation from all stakeholders within the greater Peninsula community: elected municipal government, business and community interests who will meet no less than once each quarter. The purpose of the committee is to provide broad oversight and guidance to the Executive Committee and ensure that the broader community interests are being carried out.

**The Executive Committee:** This group is composed of at least one member from each investor community as well as key non-elected leaders from business and the community. The Executive Committee will meet monthly, review and approve the operating budget and approve all expenditures over \$10,000. To ensure continuity, the Director of the Executive Committee and the Director of the Working Group will be one and the same.

*NASA Langley - a distinguished history, a threatened future.*

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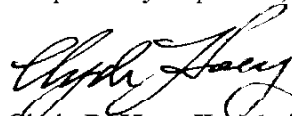
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Mr. Daniel M. Stuck  
County Administrator  
County of York  
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**The Working Group:** This group is made up of a maximum of 12 people who will carry out the day-to-day operations of NAST. Membership will include each of the key sub-committee group leaders and support staff necessary to carry out the daily functions of the Working Group. It is the task of the Working Group to develop a coherent operating plan. Once approved by the Full Committee, the Working Group will implement all aspects of this plan.

The Working Group will meet at the discretion of the Director, but normally that will be weekly. The Working Group can approve individual expenditures up to \$10,000 which will be reported to the Executive Committee at its monthly meetings. Larger expenditures must be authorized by the Executive Committee prior to any commitment of same

Attached you will find an overview and listing of objectives that the NAST desires to achieve. To accomplish its objectives, the NASA Aeronautics Support Team is requesting \$24,000 from the County of York in FY-2001 to assist in its continuing fight with Congress for Langley funding.

Respectfully requested,



Clyde R. Hoey II, Administrative Officer  
NASA Aeronautics Community Support Team

cc: The Honorable Walter C. Zaremba, Chairman  
The Honorable Sheila S. Noll

Two Attachments:  
Overview/Executive Summary & Objectives

## ***OVERVIEW***

**Background:** The Langley Research Center was established under the former National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA) in 1917 and remains the nation's premier aeronautics research facility. It was incorporated into the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in 1958 and became the NASA Langley Research Center (LaRC). Although the center is involved in many aspects of aerospace and earth science research, over 70% of the research conducted at Langley Center in 1998 was devoted to aeronautics research – the science of sub-orbital flight. This field of research has been receiving reduced funding and today comprises less than 5% of the agency's annual budget. NASA needs to continue to develop aeronautical solutions for sub-orbital flight well into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. They are chartered to this mission and are the only research lab positioned to do this vital work.

### ***Executive Summary:***

**The goal of the NASA Aeronautics Support Team** is to restore the proper emphasis and focus at the national level (Administration, Congress, NASA Headquarters and the American Public) on the need to provide increased sustained support for Aeronautics Research within National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). The achievement of this goal is necessary to solve the looming crisis in our national air transportation system and simultaneously ensure the survival and growth of research conducted at the region's NASA Langley Research Center. To accomplish this goal, the NASA Aeronautics Support Team has developed a Strategic Plan with five enabling objectives for calendar year 2000.

## **OBJECTIVES:**

- **Sustain the Gain:** The President's proposed FY-2001 budget for NASA includes an additional \$79 million for the Langley Research Center. Our number one enabling objective is to ensure that the final VA, HUD and Independent Agencies (VA/HUD/IA) Appropriations Bill contains at least the amount the President proposed for NASA, and that it remains assigned to the spending categories that will ensure aeronautics and NaLRC receive the full projected \$79 million.
- **Influence the Development of the FY-2002 NASA Budget:** At the same time that the Congress and the Administration are working on the FY-2001 VA/HUD/IA Appropriation Bill (which contains NASA's appropriation), NASA headquarters and the Administration's Office of Management and Budget will be developing NASA's proposed spending bill (budget) for FY-2002. Our second building block to success is to influence and or participate in this process to ensure that budgetary gains achieved in FY-2000 and FY-2001 are improved upon in the FY-2002 proposed NASA budget.
- **Influence the new Administration's vision for NASA:** This calendar year is a national election year. Although the current Administration and OMB will develop a proposed FY-2002 for NASA, the new Administration (and a new Congress) will adjust and appropriate the actual budget. The third building block to success is to ensure that the incoming Administration's transition team understands the significance of aeronautics to the nation's economy and is predisposed to nominate someone who is thought to be "aeronautics friendly" to become the next NASA Administrator.
- **Build National Support:** To build national support through developing coalitions with other individuals and organizations with an interest in aeronautics and to energize their respective Congressional Delegations to support funding aeronautics research within Congress. The Team's focus will be on other cities, regions, and support groups that are co-located with NASA centers that specialize in aeronautic research such as Ames, Dryden and Glenn. Additionally, the media will be encouraged to present fair, unbiased information on the growing air transportation crisis and what is necessary to correct the problem and ensure sustained national growth.
- **Raise Sufficient Operating Funds:** The fifth and final building block is to conduct an effective fund raising campaign to ensure that the first four objectives can be carried out. In addition to municipal funding provided by the Cities of Hampton, Newport News, Poquoson and the County of York, funding from the Hampton Roads Partnership and Commonwealth of Virginia has been requested. The implementation of this plan however, requires that the team raise at least \$150,000 from business, industry and NASA support contractors.